

in Washington, DC, this coming May. Nominated by LaSalle Elementary School, Alexandra has collected and delivered more than 1,200 bundles of baby clothing, blankets, diapers, and other supplies over the past five years for infants born to needy single and teen-age mothers.

Karva has been named a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medallion for her outstanding volunteer work. Karva collected 25 cartons of school supplies and \$3,000 to purchase computers for orphans attending a vocational training school in India.

I am proud of the work accomplished by Alexandra and Karva, and I commend them for taking an active role in their communities. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and they deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legacy Foundation, a national organization dedicated to helping young people reject tobacco and Americans quit smoking. The foundation recently celebrated its fifth anniversary and I am proud that this organization has chosen our Nation's Capital as its home base.

Forty-seven million Americans smoke, but tobacco is not an equal opportunity killer. Forty years ago, the well educated and affluent smoked more, but the 21st century smoker is typically lower income and less educated. Today, the negative impact of tobacco-related disease disproportionately affects the poor and ethnic or cultural minorities.

For the last 2 fiscal years, the District of Columbia ranked last among the States in tobacco prevention spending. This is exactly why Congress must support the Metro D.C. Call Center, as well as innovative and results-oriented programs like the American Legacy Foundation's truth[®] campaign, Circle of Friends and Great Start. The Metro D.C. Call Center and programs such as truth[®] do help DC residents reject tobacco and pursue healthier lifestyles.

The American Legacy Foundation was created out of the Master Settlement Agreement put forth by our Nation's attorneys general, but under the terms of the agreement, the American Legacy Foundation received its last payment earlier this year. This dramatic reduction of resources jeopardizes all of the successes the foundation has achieved.

That's why I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Legacy Foundation and its groundbreaking programs, and pledge our continued support for this vital organization.

HONORING TRENT TOUCHSTONE OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) in North Texas who has served with distinction. Supervisory Criminal Investigator Trent Touchstone has achieved a reputation within the law enforcement community as a professional manager who understands that training and agency coordination are the cornerstones of successful law enforcement operations.

During Mr. Touchstone's tenure with the USMS, this dedicated public servant has coordinated the location and apprehension of violent offenders among more than two dozen law enforcement agencies. Trent is responsible for the development and supervision of the Northern District of Texas' Special Response Team, which supports other law enforcement agencies in high-threat arrest operations, assists with their tactical training, and participates in multi-agency law enforcement competitions.

Trent was also instrumental in building the USMS Northern District of Texas' (N/TX) Training Facility. Since the N/TX Training Facility opened its doors, more than 1,100 state and local officers from 98 law enforcement agencies have trained at the facility. Supervisor Touchstone has also developed training films for Deputy U.S. Marshals and Court Security Officers depicting many dangerous situations they may encounter.

I am pleased to join Mr. Touchstone's colleagues in congratulating him on receiving the USMS Distinguished Service Award. His tireless devotion to public service has been an asset to the law enforcement community in North Texas and the citizens they protect.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I voted in favor of the Congressional Black Caucus substitute amendment, the Blue Dog substitute and the Democratic substitute. None of these budget resolutions is perfect, but all are improvements over the Republican budget.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RANDY HICKS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Randy Hicks on the occasion of his retirement from BASF Corporation after twenty-seven dignified years of employment.

Serving as the Communication Manager since 2001, Mr. Hicks has shown tremendous dedication and leadership throughout his long-lasting employment. He began his career in the Marine Corps and served two years of duty in Vietnam. In 1968, after departing from the Marines, he worked for Ford Motor Company in Wyandotte while attending Wayne State University and studying business administration. Mr. Hicks began his employment at the BASF Corporation as a Human Resource Manager before becoming the Communication Manager.

In addition to working at BASF Corporation, Mr. Hicks finds many ways to channel his supportive energy into the community. A past Chairman of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber and Detroit Heritage River Business Committee, he serves on the Board of Wyandotte Federal Credit and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. He also has invested his time and effort into the Board of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Development, the City of Wyandotte Police and Fire Commission, and the Advisory Panel of Wayne County Community College.

I am personally indebted to Randy Hicks for the support and active role he played in turning the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge from a dream into a reality. Randy understood immediately the long-term and lasting benefits the Refuge would create and with his support, we actively built both a Refuge and a constituency. As a result of Randy's involvement the BASF Corporation has put a couple of parcels of property into the Refuge and hopes to add others.

As Mr. Hicks enters his retirement years, I would like to extend my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable future. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and commitment to BASF Corporation and the Downriver community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in commending Randy Hicks for leadership in both his corporation and community, as we celebrate his twenty-seven years of dedication to the BASF Corporation.

RURAL JOB LOSS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the Congressional Rural Caucus held a forum on job losses in rural America. This is a critical issue in my district and in rural districts across the country. I would like to submit my comments on this issue for the RECORD.

I represent Michigan's 1st congressional district—the most rural district in Michigan. My constituents are all too familiar with job loss. Michigan has an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent—well over the national average. There are areas in my district where the unemployment rate actually exceeds 12 percent. 12 percent!

Since January 2001, 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost across the country, 128,900 in Michigan alone. That is a loss of 1 out of every 6 factory jobs. In Michigan manufacturing is the engine of economic growth for our state—so you can see why the impact of rural job loss has been particularly devastating.